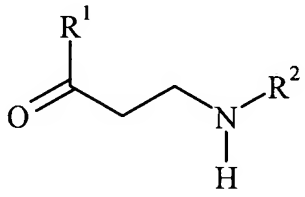
Abstract Of The Disclosure

A process for the preparation of enantiomerically pure 1-substituted-3-amino-alcohols, particularly of (*S*)-(−)- and (R)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, by asymmetrically hydrogenating salts of a carboxylic acids with an aminoketone of the formula:



II,

wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups. The corresponding aminoalcohols are obtained by subsequent hydrolysis of their salts. Salts of a carboxylic acid with the aminoketones and the aminoalcohols obtained by asymmetriacally hydrogenating the aminoketones, respectively.